

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4664

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 145

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, EAID, BC, LT, WZ

SUBJECT: UBLS STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASSES

REF: MASERU 127, 140

1. SUMMARY: UBLS ROMA STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASSES
MORNING FEB 10 AFTER BLS MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ISSUED
STERN JOINT STATEMENT OVER WEEKEND. THREE-MAN COMMISSION
BEING ESTABLISHED TO STUDY SITUATION. STUDENTS DO NOT APPEAR
TO HAVE GAINED ANY IMMEDIATE CONCESSIONS. ILL-WILL AMONG
STAFF LIKELY TO CONTINUE AND PROBABLY HAS BEEN AGGRAVATED BY
STRIKE. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE BLS MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ISSUED JOINT STATEMENT,
DATED FEB 7, BUT RELEASED FEB 10, ENTITLED JOINT
STATEMENT BY THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION (BOTSWANA, LESOTHO
& SWAZILAND IN RESPONSE TO THE DISTURBANCES AT ROMA CAMPUS.
SUMMARY FOLLOWS: HAVING CONSIDERED EVENTS GIVING RISE TO
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STUDENT UNREST AT ROMA CAMPUS, FOLLOWING DECISIONS HAVE

BEEN TAKEN:

--COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WILL BE ESTABLISHED; COMPOSITION
AND TERMS OF REFERENCE WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE GOVERNMENTS.

-- ALL STUDENTS MUST RETURN TO CLASSES NOT LATER THAN FEBRUARY
10. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RENDER STUDENTS LIABLE TO
SUSPENSION OR DISMISSAL.

-- RESUMPTION OF NORMAL WORKING WILL BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO
DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS IN RESPECT OF STUDENTS OR OTHERS AS MAY BE
APPROPRIATE IN LIGHT OF COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

(COPY THIS AND OTHER STATEMENTS BEING POUCHED TO DEPT.,
AF/S, SIMPSON).

3. STUDENTS RETURNED TO CLASSES MORNING FEB 10 AND
OPERATIONS REPORTEDLY BACK TO NORMAL. ALTHOUGH JOINT STATE-
MENT DOES NOT MENTION IT, STUDENTS' DEMAND THAT TERM BE
EXTENDED TO COMPENSATE FOR CLASS TIME LOST DURING STRIKE WAS
REJECTED BY MINISTERS. SENIOR STUDENTS ESPECIALLY ARE CON-
CERNED THEY WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO TAKE EXAMS AND ARE
APPEALING ISSUE TO UBLS SENATE.

4. BLACK MEMBERS OF UBLS STAFF HAVE FORMED BLACK STAFF
ASSOCIATION. EARLY STATEMENTS OF ASSOCIATION INDICATE IT IS
ANTAGONISTIC TO SENIOR WHITE STAFF, ESPECIALLY VC ROGERS.

5. COMMISSION OF INQUIRY WILL BE MADE UP OF REPRESENTATIVES
OF EACH BLS COUNTRY. GOL REPRESENTATIVE, WE ADVISED IN
CONFIDENCE, WILL BE PROFESSOR DWIGHT ALLEN, U.S. CITIZEN
AND DEAN OF SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, UNIV. OF MASS. AT AMHERST,
WHO IN LESOTHO ON ONE-YEAR UNESCO CONTRACT TO ESTABLISH
NATIONAL TEACHERS TRAINING COLLEGE. BOTSWANA REP
REPORTEDLY WILL BE QUALIFIED LAWYER AND SWAZILAND REP WILL
BE QUALIFIED ACADEMIC. PROPOSAL FOR ALLEN TO SERVE AS GOL
REP REPORTEDLY MADE BY LESOTHO MINED RALEBITSO WHO HIGHLY
IMPRESSED BY ALLEN'S PERFORMANCE.

6. COMMENT: APPEARS TO US THAT STATEMENT OF MINISTERS IS
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CLEAR ASSERTION OF AUTHORITY AND MAKES NO CONCESSIONS AT ALL
TO STUDENTS. THEIR ACTION MAY GIVE VICE CHANCELOR ROGERS,
WHO APPEARED TO BE IN DEEP TROUBLE LAST WEEK, A REPRIEVE,
AT LEAST UNTIL COMMISSION COMPLETES ITS WORK. DIFFERENCES
AMONG STAFF WHICH EMERGED DURING STRIKE, ESPECIALLY BETWEEN
BLACK AND WHITE, APPARENTLY HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED AND MAY
ERUPT AGAIN, AND FORMATION OF BLACK STAFF ASSOCIATION IS

INDICATION OF THIS.
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